

Carolina Compass

Dean Smith Center a veritable palace

By **EDDY LANDRETH**
Sports Editor

There is a majestic new palace on UNC's campus, and the king of college basketball holds court there.

The official name is the Dean E. Smith Center, but it is more commonly known as the Dean Dome.

As you approach the structure, you are suddenly overwhelmed by the enormity of it. The Smith Center is the third largest on-campus arena in the country, seating 21,444 for basketball. Only Syracuse's Carrier Dome and Brigham Young's Marriott Center are larger, in terms of seating capacity.

Most everything inside the building is painted your favorite color of blue, especially the interior of the arena itself.

All the seats are the plastic-chair type, rather than the old aluminum-bench version. This equates into greater comfort for everyone's back. The seats in the upper-most level are all plastic, while those in the lower areas contain a cushioned bottom, for yours.

Banners advertising past glories gently wave in the cloud section, instilling a sense of tradition as you gaze about.

The seating arrangement is laid out so everyone has a good view of the game. But in the upper-most seats, even the tallest of men are reduced

just a bit. Before you complain about the height of your seat, remember — if they still played in Carmichael, you probably would not be there.

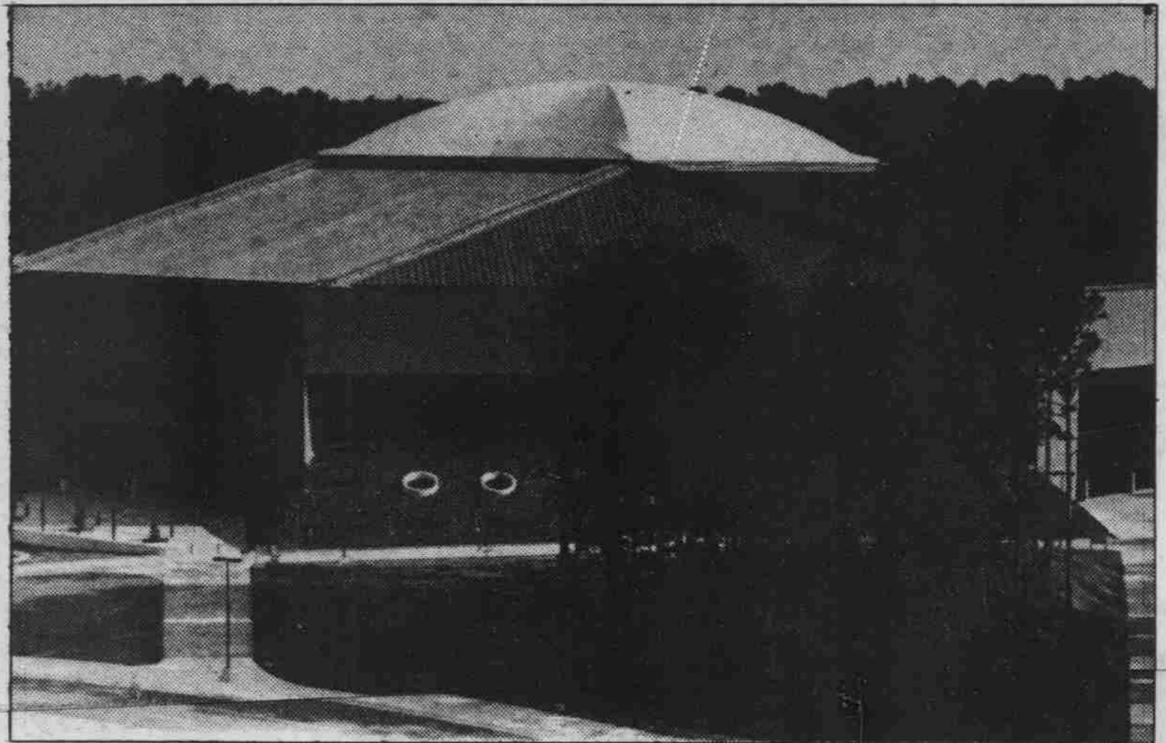
When you make that inevitable trip to the restroom, you realize there is a permanent line. Then you notice the line is not moving because it's a mural.

Upon entering the facility, one of the first things you notice is the many plaques honoring those who contributed the \$33.8 million dollars necessary to build it. All the funds were private donations, raised in a campaign led by former N.C. Gov. Hargrove "Skipper" Bowles.

The first activity in the center was not sports related, but a black-tie fund-raising event. The construction of \$211,650 for the University's College of Arts and Sciences. The center was named that evening for the University's resident legend.

The arena is adjoined to a swimming facility named for a former University trustee, Maurice L. Koury. It houses a 50-meter, eight-lane, Olympic-sized pool that will make the University eligible to host NCAA championships and Olympic swimming trials. The pool should be ready before the fall semester.

Because of the delays in the construction process, the official dedication ceremony was postponed until this fall. There will be an alumni



The Student Activities Center in its gleaming splendor

Tar Heel/David Foster

game of many of Coach Smith's former players on Sept. 6, sometime after the first football game. All of Coach Smith's former players will be invited, although they probably will not all participate in the game.

The center has created so much interest that there is a souvenir stand open year-round from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Tim Mee operates the stand for the student store.

"Everybody who comes through town has to come to see this place,"

Mee said.

Mee said he did a considerable business most everyday. "The hottest items are the boxer shorts and the Dean E. Smith T-shirts," he said. "Slightly more women buy the shorts than men." The shorts are covered with the word Carolina, printed in light blue, of course.

Mee said he also served as a combination information booth and guide. "People who usually come in here are families," he said. "They usually come by the carload, one at

a time, then the next load will come in."

The public has such an interest in the facility that Dena Nail of the sports information office is creating a brochure explaining many of the details about the building, including the first game played and who scored the first basket. By the way, the game, which the Heels won 95-92, was against the hated Duke Blue Devils. Warren Martin will be remembered as the man who scored first, on a dunk off a Kenny Smith assist.

Franklin Street offers old style charm of bygone era today

By **KATIE WHITE**
Staff Writer

Both the University and Chapel Hill have interesting histories. They can be found in the library or the bookstore, but if you're interested in more than the written page, walk into some area businesses and look around. Some have been here for more than half a century.

On the main block of East Franklin Street, there are three such businesses. Take the walk from campus to Franklin Street by way of Silent Sam. This will put you in front of the post office. Turn left and walk down the rows of stores. The first place of longevity is Sutton's Drug Store, a combination drug store and lunch counter.

"We've been here since 1923," says Willie Mae from behind the lunch counter in the back of the store. Willie Mae, a Chapel Hill native, started working at Sutton's in 1956. Breakfast and lunch are cooked and served from behind the lunch counter, which is surrounded by swivel stools. Types of meals available are egg breakfasts cooked to order, hamburgers, hotdogs, barbecue and cold sandwiches.

"We're known for our fresh orange

and lemonade that we squeeze ourselves," says Willie Mae, a motherly looking woman with glasses. She smiles when you ask her about the students.

"They're all good," she says. Each school semester she says she is adopted by several students as another mother.

"One came back to see me after being gone 20 years. That makes me feel good."

So if you get homesick, go to see Willie Mae at Sutton's. She'll cheer you up.

Another famous place on Franklin Street several doors down from Sutton's is Jeff's Confectionary. At Jeff's, you can buy a variety of magazines and newspapers, as well as a cold Coca Cola. The shop has been there since 1927 and boasts the best soda fountain. It also serves milkshakes and beer.

"During the football season, the old timers will come in and drink beer before the games because it is the only place they remember," says the man behind the counter.

After you have refreshed yourself at Jeff's, stroll a little farther down Franklin Street to the corner at

North Columbia Street, and you'll find Huggins Hardware. You'll also find everything that you need for your dorm room.

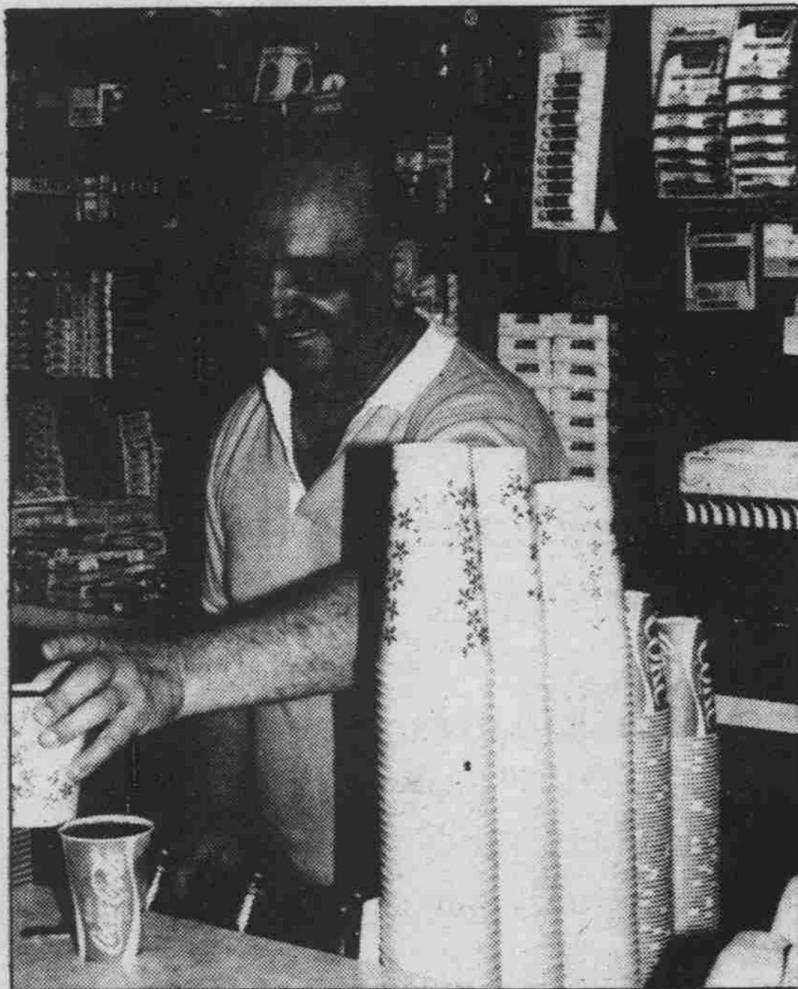
"We've been here for over 50 years," says manager Glenn Carver. There's a long list of things that students buy at Huggins, including brooms, toilette articles, kitchen equipment, plants, picture hangers, paint and other general hardware. They also have a keymaker, which Carver says is very busy each fall.

Carver prides himself on the personal service he gives to students.

"I like to help them out with art projects like helping them pick out just the right kind of paint. Every customer is a friend," he says with a smile. He also adjusts the prices of his products for the student budget. He is often adopted as a big brother by many students and even attended the graduation of one. He says he still hears from her.

"It just breaks my heart when they leave," he says. Then, there's always the new ones coming in.

If you get a chance, visit these people and you'll find a friend and discover that there's more to Chapel Hill than what's written down.



Tar Heel/Christopher Baroudi

James Mousmoules serves a soda at Jeff's Confectionary